



WRITING OUR STORY

Creating community and
inspiring minds

A CAMPAIGN FOR GRETNNA'S NEW LIBRARY





LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Residents of Gretna,

Gretna is a community that gets things done. We see it time and time again. When our residents are asked to come together for a worthy cause, we respond!

The Gretna Public Library would greatly appreciate your support at this time as we launch the *"Writing Our Story"* Capital Campaign to construct a new library that will consolidate our resources and enhance our service to our rapidly expanding community.

Currently, we operate from two separate locations, which significantly limits our ability to offer the programs, materials and services that are not only expected, but also needed. Additionally, having two smaller buildings is inefficient, costly and does not provide the spaces necessary for a community of our size. Our board and stakeholders have engaged industry experts, listened to our citizens and have prepared a comprehensive case statement outlining our vision.

I ask our community members to rally behind this project by making a contribution that's meaningful to them to the Gretna Public Library Foundation.

Your support will have a profound impact on this project, but more importantly on lifelong learning, personal development and our sense of community for generations.

Gretna has always been a community that values quality of life, supporting the well-being of all its residents and is forward-looking. Investing in a new public library shows our commitment to knowledge, literacy and sense of community by offering a brighter future for all. Together, we can create a space that serves as a source of inspiration, education and opportunity for generations to come. Please consider joining us on this exciting journey.

Let us demonstrate the remarkable achievements the Gretna community can attain when we come together.

Thank you for your support of this landmark project and helping keep *Gretna, the Great Life!*
Sincerely,

Mayor Mike Evans



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As a child, my family moved to Gretna in 1966 and I was always intrigued by the unique little library that had previously been a gas station! The library has served our town so well, and how wonderful it will be to have a new, modern facility to serve our growing community!”

ANN BOCK,
General Chair

OUR HISTORY

Nestled in the heart of our community, the Gretna Public Library boasts a century-long history, which evolved from its modest origins into a vital center of community culture and learning.

Established in 1901 within a corner of the town's fire barn, the library's initial purpose was to offer residents a haven for knowledge and intellectual exploration. Over time, its popularity soared, necessitating a more spacious home to house its burgeoning collection and growing visitor numbers.

In 1929, the Women's Club rallied funds to acquire an old gas station, formalizing the establishment of the Gretna Public Library as sanctioned by the Village Board. From an initial collection of a mere 12 books, the library's holdings, thanks to donations from townsfolk and clubs, jumped to 1,800 volumes by 1937.

This transition marked the library's evolution into an independent institution, solidifying its role as a hub for knowledge exchange. Throughout the mid-20th century, the library thrived by introducing fresh services, programs and resources.

As the digital era emerged, the Gretna Public Library embraced technology, providing public access to computers, online databases and e-book lending. These innovations sustained the library's relevance, catering to diverse learning approaches.

Today, the library stands as one of the city's most frequented spots. In 1983, the Gretna Public Library Foundation formed to build the current library, which has served the community for over three decades. Yet, as Gretna expanded, the library's space constraints again became evident, leading to the purchase of a location for the Children's Library in 2010.

The library remains an essential facet of the town's identity. As technology advances, the Gretna Public Library persists in its mission to connect, inspire and empower people for learning.





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I am so excited to see our library foundation partnering with the city to make this vision a reality. Combining a new library facility with city services and community space provides increased amenities to our community in a way that is both convenient and fiscally responsible. I am proud to see our community take this long overdue step into the future.”

KARA ALEXANDER,
Gretna City Councilwoman, Gretna Public Library Board Liaison

RENDERINGS AND PROJECT OVERVIEW

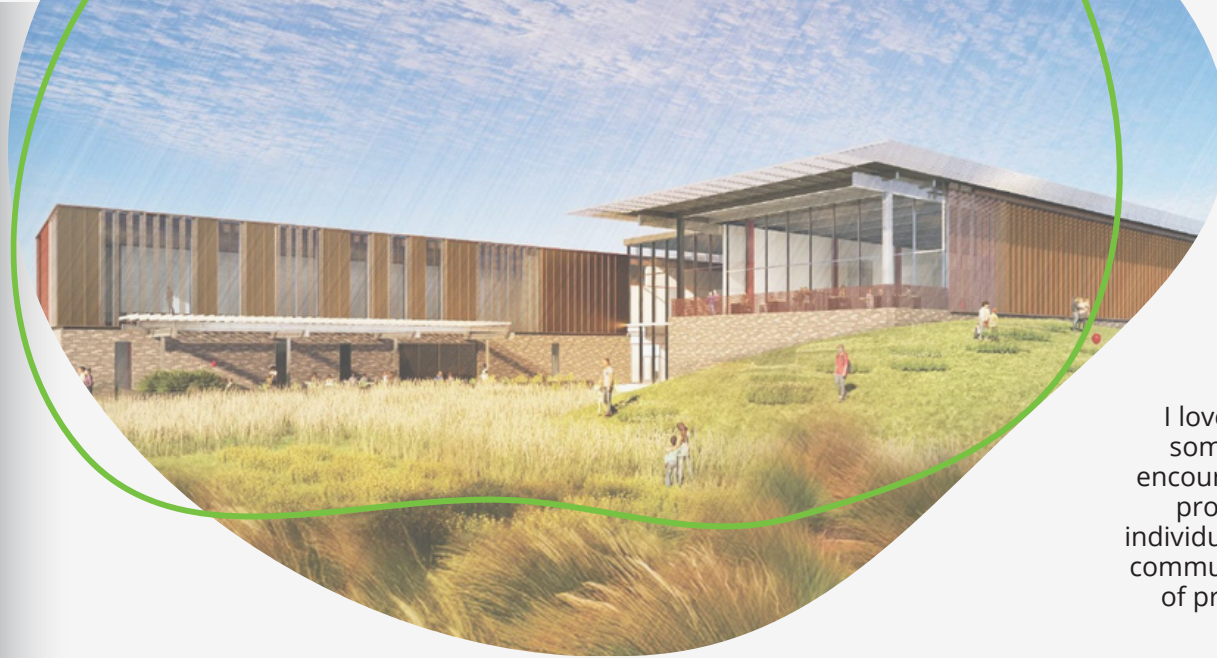
Join us on an extraordinary adventure as we launch the *Writing Our Story* Capital Campaign for the new Gretna Public Library!

Calling all dreamers, learners, creators and community enthusiasts! We stand at the threshold of an extraordinary journey—a journey that hinges on the collective spirit of our Gretna community. It is with immense excitement and a deep sense of purpose that we invite you to be a part of our groundbreaking endeavor: the launch of the *Writing Our Story* Capital Campaign for the new Gretna Public Library.

In collaboration with the City of Gretna, we embark on a visionary public-private partnership that will redefine the essence of community spaces—a true community hub. This dynamic undertaking is poised to house not only a modern, state-of-the-art library, but also shared community spaces and the future growth potential that our community rightly deserves.

Picture a space where the enchanting allure of literature meets the vibrant pulse of community engagement. Our current library is a treasure trove, where books and periodicals spark imagination and learning. But this is just the beginning. We are more than just books: We connect people and their ideas. The result is collaboration and creativity.





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I love that our library offers something for everyone. It encourages reading for all ages, provides a quiet place for individual learning, and promotes community growth with a variety of programs and activities.”

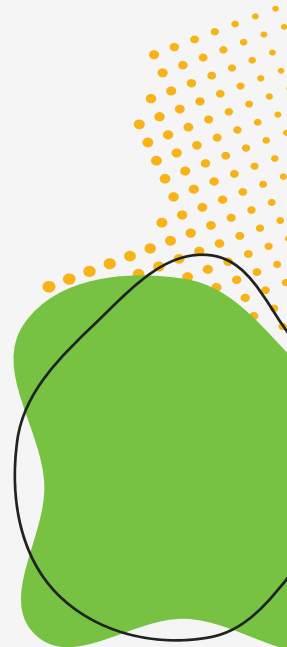
GINNY GIEBELHAUS,
Library Foundation Chair

We ask you to explore the many possibilities that await within our walls: from captivating children’s programs that fuse music, movement and storytelling, to vibrant teen spaces that nurture connections and self-expression. For adults, envision the library serving as the hub for engaging book clubs, enriching craft workshops, and insightful talks that amplify local voices. We extend our reach even further, ensuring that our resources serve those beyond our doors - touching the lives of those in care facilities.

As we begin this new chapter, we extend an invitation—one that is as heartfelt as it is resounding. We invite you, our community members, to come together to help us shape our community’s future. The new Gretna Public Library will not merely replicate, but will magnify our current offerings. Imagine designated zones for every age and interest, versatile study spaces, a cutting-edge computer lab, a captivating gallery nestled in our lobby, and an abundance of programming spaces. With ample parking and a convenient drive-through pick-up lane, accessing the wealth of knowledge and experiences will be effortless. Outdoors, spaces for activities will inspire connections and contemplation.

THIS IS MORE THAN A CAMPAIGN; IT’S A CALL TO ACTION.

As we embark on this capital campaign, we invite you to stand with us, to invest not just in bricks and mortar, but in the very heart of our community. Your support, your vision and your dedication will shape the stories we tell for generations to come. Together, let’s write the next chapter in the story of Gretna—a chapter of boundless possibilities and shared achievements.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Pledges to the *WritingOur Story* Capital Campaign may be made over a three-year period and can be made in several different ways.

CASH/CHECK

A common method of making a gift is to contribute cash through recurring payments by check over the three-year pledge period.

CREDIT/DEBIT CARD

You may choose to have your gift drawn directly from your credit or debit card as a one-time payment or a recurring payment.

SECURITIES

Stocks, bonds or mutual fund shares that have appreciated can have an immediate impact on our campaign and create an income tax deduction for you based on their current value. Because there is no capital gains tax when you make a charitable gift, you receive an additional tax benefit above and beyond the charitable gift donation.

MATCHING GIFTS

Some local companies offer matching gift programs for employees. This allows donors to maximize their giving potential. For information and required forms, check with your company's human resources department.

LIFE INSURANCE

You may donate to the campaign by making the Gretna Public Library the owner and beneficiary of your insurance policy.

PLANNED GIFTS

Planned giving is the process of carefully selecting the best method and asset for making a charitable gift. Such a gift can enable you to take full advantage of the tax laws to accomplish your financial and charitable goals. Planned gifts can be made in the following ways:

- Bequests by Will or Living Trust.
- Charitable Remainder Trusts.
- Charitable Lead Trusts.
- Charitable Gift Annuities.
- Beneficiary benefits from IRAs, Pensions or Financial Accounts. You may benefit from gifts with a charitable deduction on your tax return.



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As Gretna continues to grow, so do the opportunities to expand offerings to its community! It's an exciting time to help build a legacy for future generations by supporting the Gretna Public Library project. Gretna deserves a facility that will be able to serve the fast-growing population.”

ERIN WILLNERD,
Library Foundation Vice Chair



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One of the most rewarding parts of librarianship is seeing children develop a real love for books and reading! The joy and sense of accomplishment that a child experiences with this milestone helps to propel them into a life where they embrace learning, and that is truly something special to see!”

KRISSY REED,
Gretna Public Library Director

Donate Here:

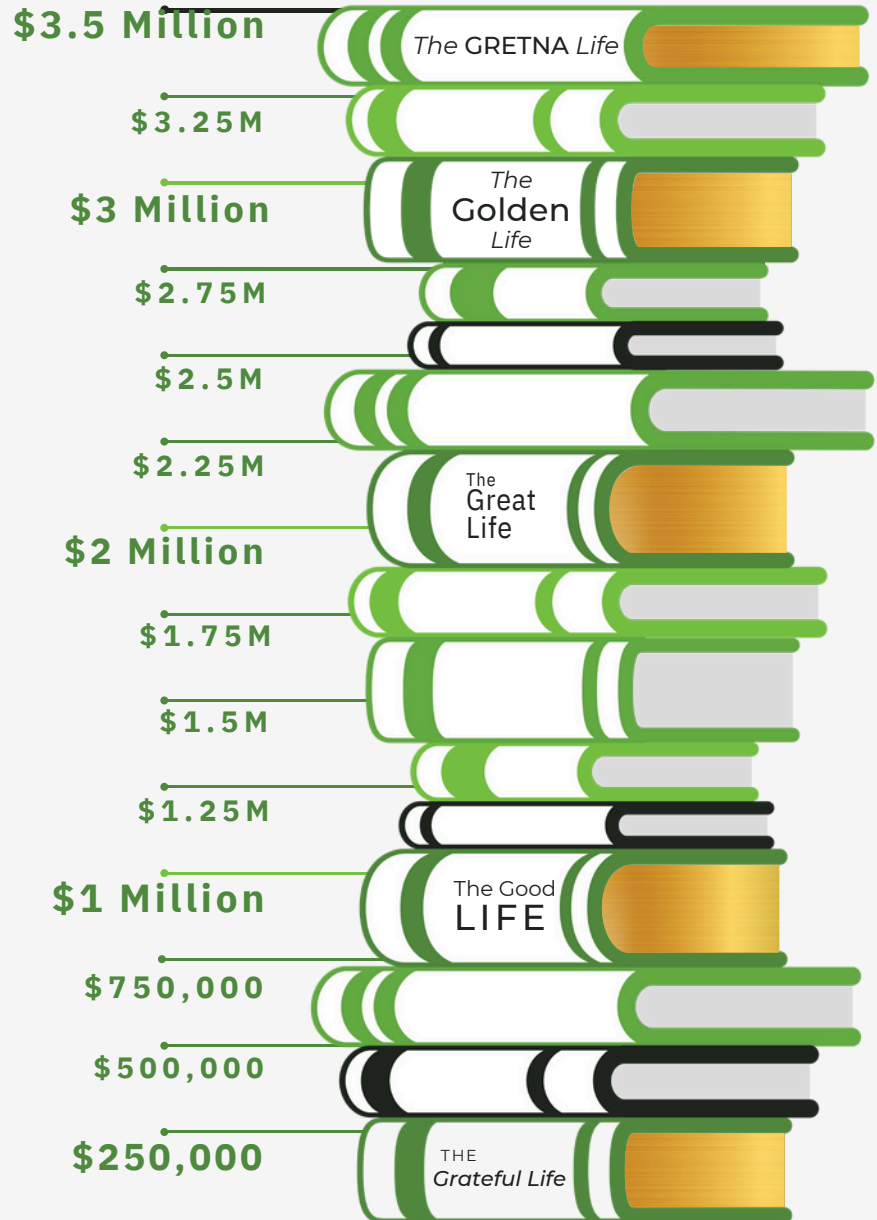


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Think of giving not as a duty but as a privilege.”

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER JR.

SUPPORTING OUR LIBRARY, ONE BOOK AT A TIME



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Lori and Scott Wagner
Patti and Jim Warren
Jeremy Westengaard
Erin and Shawn Willnerd
Nancy and Gary Zessin

CAMPAIGN COUNSEL

The Steier Group

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The proposed Gretna Public Library Project is an extraordinary resource for our thriving community that will provide access to quality resources, enhance technical literacy, and help lead us into an innovative future. Gretna has a longstanding history of embracing transition and development within the community, and now is our opportunity to continue this legacy for future generations.”

RACHEL CUSHING,
Library Board of Trustees Chair



This campaign is the result of a public-private partnership involving these groups and their members:



City of Gretna



Gretna Public Library



Gretna Library Foundation